



TO THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ROBERT CORNELIUS et al,

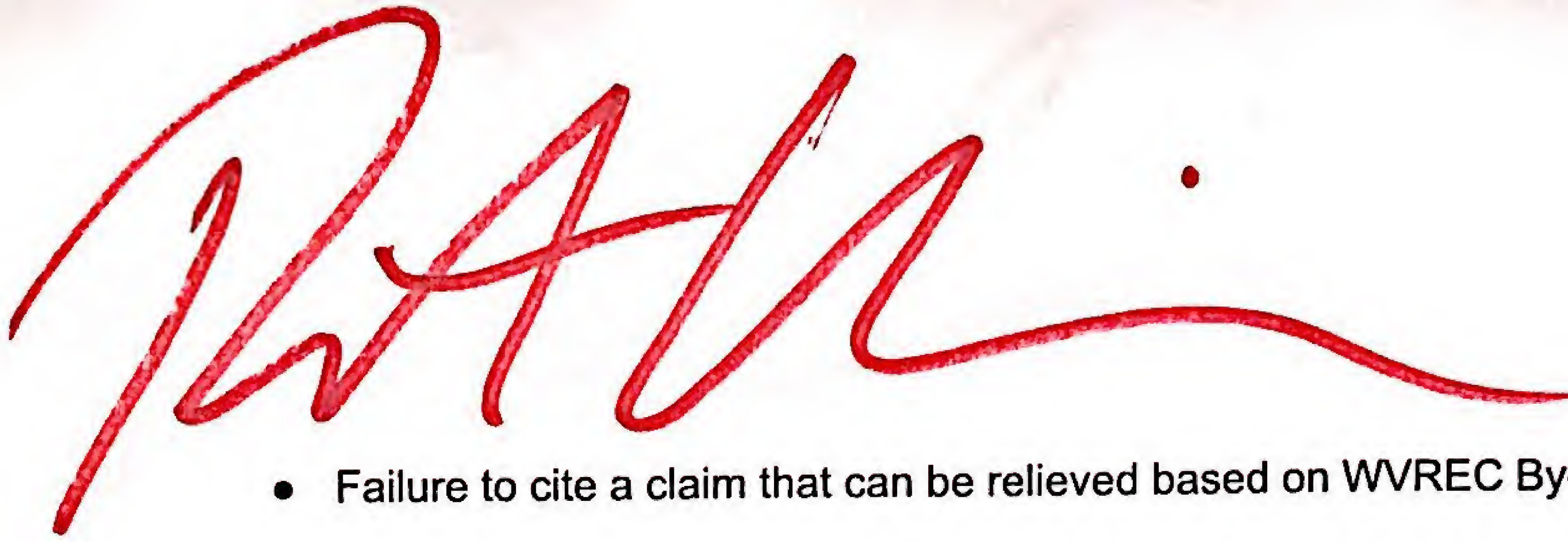
Appellants,

June 26th, 2019

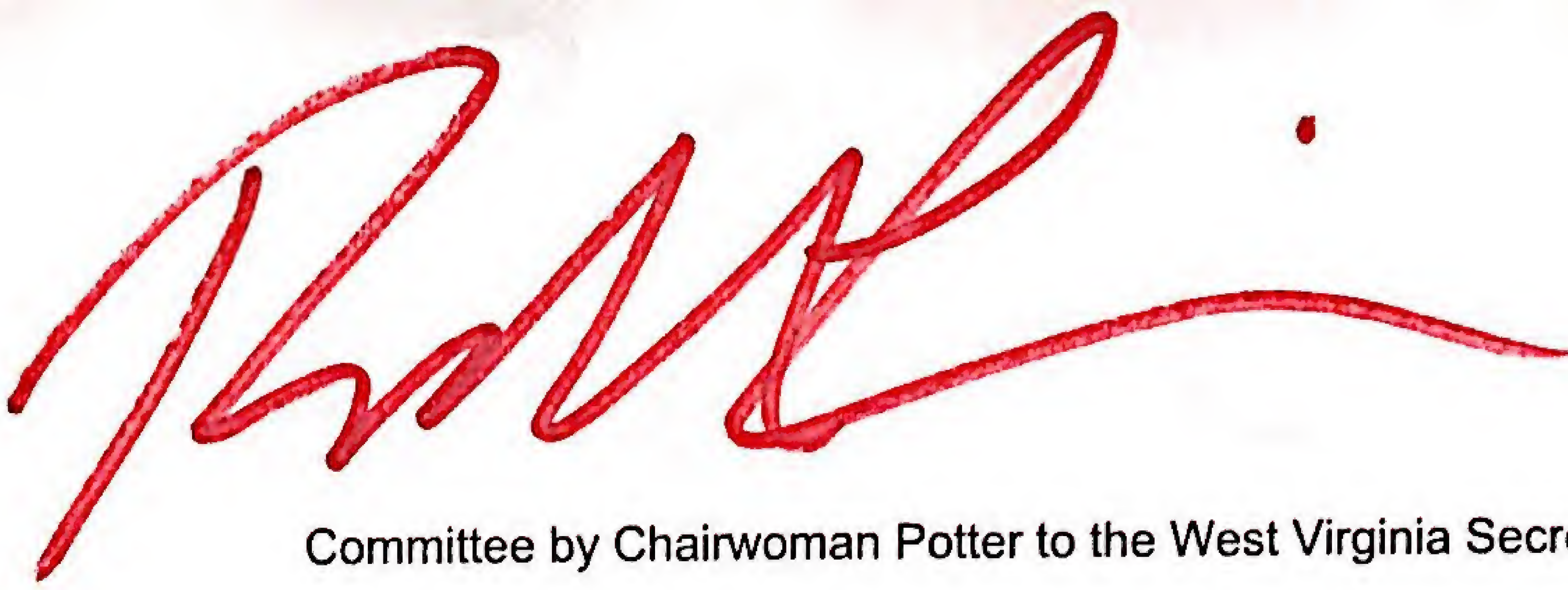
**NOTICE OF APPEAL OF THE ACTIONS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA REPUBLICAN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, OR THOSE MEMBERS ACTING IN ITS NAME OR
BEHALF**

Appellant, specifically the standing Chairman of the Wood County Republican Executive Committee and others similarly affected, including members of that body, other officers of that body, properly registered Republican voters in Wood County, elected Republican and non-partisan officials of Wood County, and fellow members of the West Virginia Republican Executive Committee appeal to the West Virginia Republican Executive Committee to suspend and reverse any binding or non-binding actions of the published June 18th, 2019 order of State Chairwoman Melody Potter.

1. Said letter suffers from several deficiencies in its attempt to remove Cornelius from his two elected positions on the Wood County Republican Executive Committee, including but not limited to:



- Failure to cite a claim that can be relieved based on WVREC By-Laws. Public expression of the First Amendment is not a cited ground for removal in WVREC or WCREC By-Laws, nor prohibited by WV Code.
- Failure to cite any pending or past action of the WCREC in dispute or otherwise incomplete that would be subject to intervention on any basis defined in Article XVI of the WVREC By-Laws.
- Failure to meet any standard for removal a member cited in WVREC By-Laws, specifically Article XVIII.
- Denial to appellant's rights enumerated in Article II, Section 4 of WVREC By-Laws: *The term of office of all members elected by the Executive Committee shall begin upon their election and shall continue until the last day of June following the statewide primaries in which members are elected from the Senatorial districts and until their successors are elected and qualified.*
- And again in Article 3, Section 1, denial of right of Committee member stated in by-laws: *The term of office of all members of the State Executive Committee so elected shall begin on the first day of July following the statewide primaries and shall continue for four years thereafter and until their successors are elected and qualified except for the terms specified In Article X.*
- Without legal authority, acting as Chairman of the Wood County Republican Party, in presentation of several appointees to Wood County Republican

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Committee by Chairwoman Potter to the West Virginia Secretary of State,
disregarding WV Code 3-1-9(g)

- Without legal authority, appointment of an "acting Chairman" of the Wood County Republican Committee, a position that exists nowhere in either WVREC or WCREC by-laws, and violating the rights of existing WCREC vice-chairmen chosen by the body, Douglas Ankrom and Roger Brown.
- Violated WV Code 3-1-11 with the arbitrary removal of an elected Chairman and Committeeman, and the stated duty of the Party to conduct itself in a fashion "not inconsistent with law."

**§3-1-11. Powers of state executive committee; central or subcommittees;
party emblems.**

The state executive committee of each party may make such rules for the government of such party, not inconsistent with law, as may be deemed expedient; and it may also revoke, alter, or amend, in any manner not inconsistent with law, any present or future rules of such party. All acts of such state or other committees may be reviewable by the courts.

- Violated WV Code 3-1-10 with arbitrary and immediately effective removal of an elected Chairman and Committeeman, as regards length of term of office and status of elected members of any political committee:



§3-1-10. Party committees in office.

The members of all state, congressional, senatorial, and county executive committees for political parties in office at the time this section becomes effective, and the various officers of such committees, shall hold their several offices and discharge the duties thereof until their successors are chosen and installed in accordance with the provisions of section nine of this article effective simultaneously herewith and other applicable provisions of this article, the prior provisions of section nine having become effective after the election of such members and officers for terms ending in the year 1982.

- Without legal authority or cause or investigation & charges as prescribed in the WCREC By-Laws, removal of a duly elected member of the Wood County Republican Executive Committee and the Chairman of that body
2. Beyond the above deficiencies and errors, this push for a removal by improper external means of a successful county chairman is neither in the best interests of both public policy, nor those interests of the Wood County Republican Party, the West Virginia Republican Party or our other elected officials, candidates, and registered voters.

While Chairwoman Potter may not personally like the Wood County Chairman, other officers or elected or appointed members, simple dislike is not enough cause for a



removal. The bar in Robert's Rules for same is exceptionally high, especially for actions which occur outside the society or its legal meetings.

3. For purposes of the body of the West Virginia State Republican Executive Committee, any removal of the Chairman of the WCREC, under this process would serve to damage that greater committee, its candidates and operation.

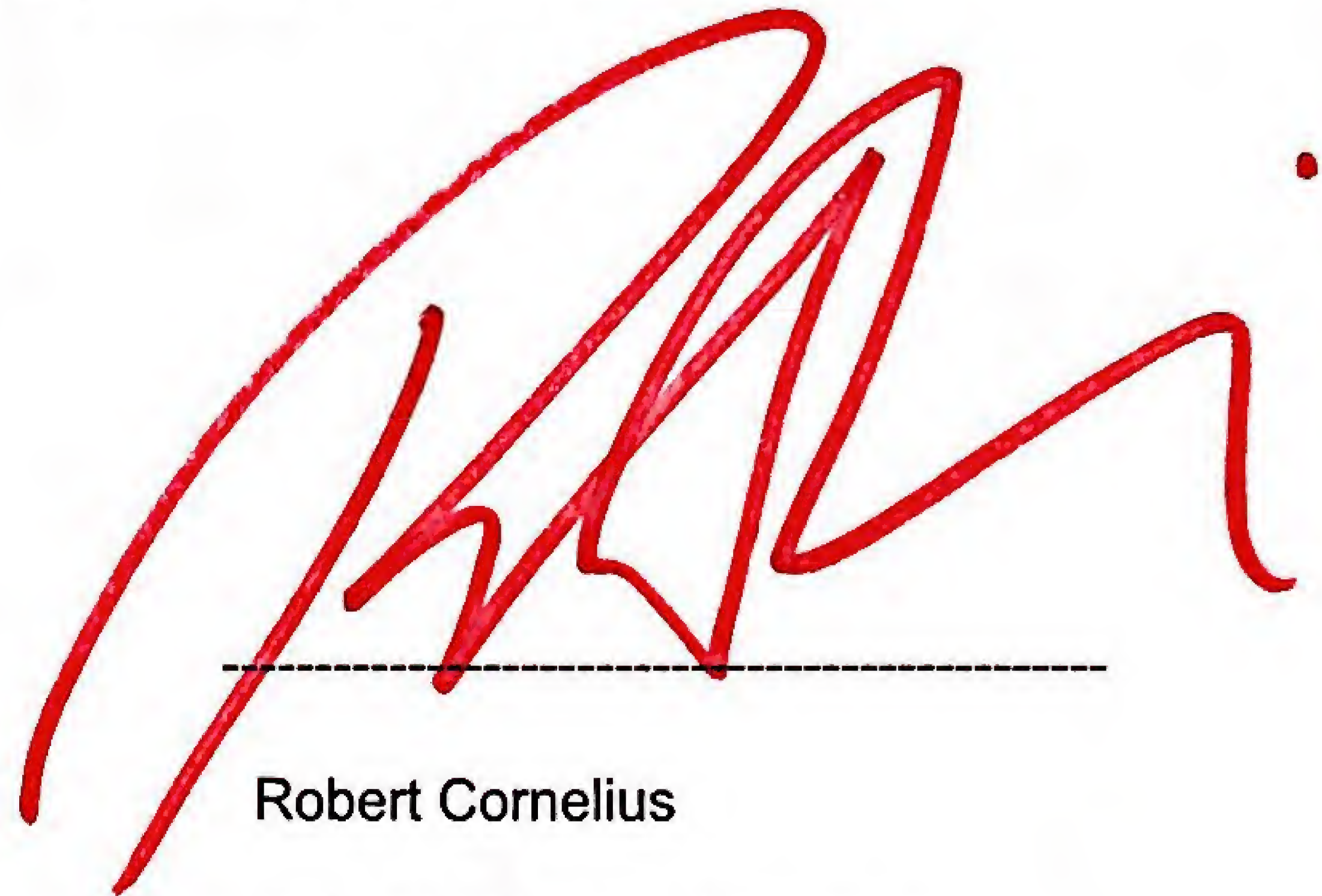
The appellant, as WCREC Chairman, expertly leads the most successful Republican operation in a high-population county. Period. Democrats lose in Wood County.

4. Finally, in Article XVIII of the West Virginia State Republican Executive Committee, speaking to banishment of those disloyal to the Party, that penalty is proffered for those who "who by any public action donates, contributes, endorses, or in any manner provides open and public assistance to a Democratic candidate in a contested campaign for public office to the detriment of the Republican candidate, shall forfeit any and all rights and privileges of a member of the West Virginia Republican State Executive Committee."

While the actions of Potter to wrong the appellant and similarly situated individuals through an improper process are galling, they are clearly retribution for the appellant's broad free speech toward herself and our embarrassing Governor.

WHEREFORE, Mr. Cornelius respectfully requests the body to stay, dismiss and deem moot all actions of any improper communication of Chairwoman Melody Potter on June 18th, 2019, including but not limited to investigation, charges, censure, removal or expulsion of any member or officer with appropriate cause and adjudication, and grant any further equitable relief it deems appropriate.

Submitted respectfully.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in red ink, consisting of several sweeping, interconnected strokes, positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

Robert Cornelius

WCREC Elected Chairman

4 Willowbrook

Parkersburg, WV 26104